

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A glutamine-auxotrophic human cell transfected with an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a protein or an exogenous DNA sequence capable of altering the expression of an endogenous gene encoding a protein and an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a glutamine synthetase, wherein these exogenous DNA sequences are located on more than one DNA construct, said transfected cell capable of producing said protein

and capable of growing in a glutamine-free medium.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 1, wherein the glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is an immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell.

4. (Original) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 3, wherein the immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is a human fibrosarcoma cell.

5. (Original) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 4, wherein the human fibrosarcoma cell is a HT1080 cell line.

6. (Currently Amended) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 1, wherein the transfected cell is anchorage-independent and capable of growing in suspension in serum-free[[.]] and glutamine-free medium.

7. (Original) A process for the production of a protein comprising the steps of

- a) culturing a glutamine-auxotrophic human cell according to claim 1 in a culture medium under conditions suitable for expression of said protein and
- b) recovering said protein.

8. (Original) The process of claim 7 wherein the protein is a glycosylated protein.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 7 wherein the culture medium is serum-free and/or glutamine free.

11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 7 wherein the culture medium is both serum free and glutamine free.

12. (Currently Amended) The cell of claim 1 ~~process of claim 7~~ wherein the protein is a glycosylated protein.

13. (Currently Amended) The process of claim [[12]] 8 wherein said glycosylated protein is a sialylated protein.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 13 wherein sialylation is defined [[a]] by N-glycan charge.

15. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 14 wherein said sialylated protein comprises tri, tetra- or pentasialo ~~glycoforms~~isoforms of said N-glycan.

16. (new) The cell of claim 12 wherein glycosylated protein is a sialylated protein.

17. (new) The cell of claim 16 wherein sialylation is defined by N-glycan charge.

18. (new) The cell of claim 17 wherein said sialylated protein comprises tri, tetra- or pentasialo glycoforms of said N-glycan.

19. (new) The process of claim 7, wherein the glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is an immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell.

20. (new) The process of claim 19, wherein the immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is a human fibrosarcoma cell.

21. (new) The cell of claim 16 wherein the sialylated protein is Erythropoietin.

22. (new) The cell of claim 21 wherein the Erythropoietin is human Erythropoietin.

23. (new) The process according to claim 13 wherein the sialylated protein is Erythropoietin.

24. (new) The process according to claim 23 wherein the Erythropoietin is human Erythropoietin.